



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TUCSON WOMAN SENTENCED TO 2 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR SMUGGLING CHILD

TUCSON, Ariz. – Gloria Eva Rodriguez, 35, of Tucson, was sentenced here on Friday, January 9, 2009, by Chief U.S. District Judge John M. Roll to two years in federal prison. Rodriguez pleaded guilty on October 16, 2008 to conspiracy to transport an illegal alien.

On August 1, 2008, Rodriguez entered the Nogales, Ariz. Port of Entry driving a rental car with a 3-year-old male Mexican citizen who had no authority to enter the U.S. Rodriguez presented her twin sister's identification documents for herself, and her sister's son's Arizona birth certificate for the boy, claiming that the boy was her son. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection Official became suspicious and upon interviewing Rodriguez learned that she was not related to the boy.

Rodriguez admitted she did not know the child and was going to be paid \$100 to smuggle him into the United States and take him to his "Aunt Jasmine" in Tucson. Rodriguez's twin sister did not know Rodriguez had taken their identification documents to use in the smuggling attempt.

The smuggled child was turned over to the custody of the Mexican Department of Family Services (the Mexican equivalent of U.S. Child Protective Services) and has been reunited with his family.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The prosecution was handled by Mary Sue Feldmeier, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-08-1039-TUC-JMR
RELEASE NUMBER: 2009-012(Rodriguez)

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